



Lottery, Prize, and Sweepstakes Scams and the Role of Money Transfer Services



May 2-3, 2011

Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 331
Chicago, Illinois



*****DRAFT AGENDA*****

Monday, May 2, 2011

8:00 – 8:45 **Registration and Refreshments**

8:45 – 9:30 **Introduction and Keynote Address**

9:30 – 9:50 **Scope of the “You’re a Winner” Problem**
What do statistics and other data show about size and nature of the problem?

9:50 – 10:20 **Anatomy of a Fraud: How These Scams Operate**
How do scammers use cold calls, email and paper mail to contact consumers? What do they claim? How do they collect money?

10:20 – 10:40 **Break**

10:40 – 11:30 **Panel: Who Is Vulnerable to These Frauds?**
What do we know about the people who become victims? Do scams affect the general public or only certain vulnerable demographic groups? What can we learn from studies in this area and actual experience working with consumers?

11:30 – 1:00 **Lunch: On Your Own**

- 1:00 – 1:45 Role of Fake Checks in These Frauds**
Many of these scams send consumers counterfeit checks they are instructed to use to pay the “fees” to get their winnings. How do these schemes work? What efforts have been made to educate the public? What can law enforcement do about this problem?
- 1:45 – 2:45 Fraud Prevention Efforts by Western Union**
What programs does Western Union have in place to prevent use of its system in fraud schemes? What more could or should be done?
- 2:45 – 3:00 Break**
- 3:00 – 3:30 Other Scams That Use Money Transfers**
Other scams that employ money transfer services to obtain funds include the grandparent or friend in need scam, advance fee loans, secret shopper jobs and check overpayment schemes.
- 3:30 – 5:00 Law Enforcement Response to These Scams**
Many of those behind these scams are located outside the United States. What is the experience of law enforcers - both in and outside the U.S. - in dealing with these scams? How well are cooperative efforts working?
- 5:30 Possible Reception**

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

8:00 – 8:30 Refreshments

8:30 – 9:15 Views From the Sweepstakes and Lottery Industry

Many times scammers impersonate state or provincial lotteries or companies that employ sweepstakes in promotional efforts. How are these third parties affected by the scams? What steps are they taking to help protect the public?

9:15 – 10:15 Fraud Prevention Efforts by MoneyGram

What programs does MoneyGram have in place to prevent use of its system in fraud schemes? What more could or should be done?

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:15 Consumer Education and Walmart's Experience with Fraud-Induced Money Transfers

This session will focus on general consumer education and Walmart's recent efforts to reduce fraud by educating customers and training store personnel.

11:15 – 12:00 What More Can We Do to Limit Fraud Employing Money Transfers?

This discussion will focus on ways to stop or limit the use of money transfers as a payment mechanism for fraud. Panelists will discuss what has been effective thus far and explore other possible steps and whether they would be practicable.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch: On Your Own

1:00 – 2:00 Brainstorming: Other Methods of Addressing Lottery, Prize, and Sweepstakes Scams

This session will invite all participants to offer and combine ideas on steps to be taken to help protect the public from these frauds. Discussion will cover consumer education, how to help consumers learn whether they have actually won, and potential law enforcement and/or regulatory solutions.

2:00 – 2:15 Break and Close of Public Session

2:15 – 4:00 Law Enforcement Only Session

- Disruption and Prevention Efforts
- Challenges for Law Enforcement
- Open Discussion

4:00 Conclusion

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